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ORIGINAL

September 24, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re **Ex Parte Notice**, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,
CC Docket No. 96-45

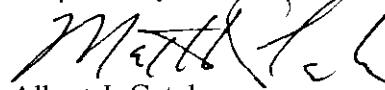
Nextel Partners, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission's") Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this letter provides notice that on September 24, 2003, Donald Manning and David Aas of Nextel Partners, Inc. ("Nextel Partners") and Albert J. Catalano and Matthew J. Plache of Catalano & Plache, PLLC, met with Brian Tramont, Chief of Staff to Chairman Michael K. Powell, to discuss Nextel Partners' ETC petitions currently pending before the Commission. Our conversation tracked the attached document.

An original and two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary's Office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 338-3200.

Respectfully submitted,



Albert J. Catalano
Matthew J. Plache

Counsel for Nextel Partners, Inc.

Attachment

NEXTEL PARTNERS: An Overview

- Nextel Partners was formed specifically to accelerate the build out of the Nextel system in the mid-sized and tertiary markets, including rural and historically underserved areas.
- Primary focus is on mid-sized and tertiary markets.
- Provider of advanced digital wireless communications services over industry leading nationwide network.
- Service territory includes 53 million POPs in 31 States.
- 1,054,000 subscriber lines as of June 30, 2003.
- More than 3,300 cell sites and 37,000,000 covered POPs.
- 2,659 employees in 26 States.

Nextel Partners

Benefits of the Relationship With Nextel

- Through Nextel Partners' efforts, the Nextel digital network has been built out in mid-sized and tertiary areas.
- Nextel Partners' customers have access to the same Nextel nationwide network, services and equipment that are available to citizens in the primary markets.
- Nextel Partners' customers receive seamless nationwide roaming at no additional charge to the customer.
- Nextel Partners has established strong ties with the public safety community to help meet the nation's emergency, public safety and national security needs.

Nextel Partners' Accomplishments

USF Contributions January 1999 to Present: \$11,079,000

Current USF Contribution Amount: \$1,000,000 per month

Subscriber Growth - 54%

- End of 1999: 46,100
- End of 2000: 227,400
- End of 2001: 515,900
- End of 2002: 877,800
- As of 6/30/03: 1,054,000

Covered POPs

- 1999: 6,000,000
- 2000: 23,000,000
- 2001: 33,000,000
- 2002: 37,000,000
- 2003: 38,000,000 (est.)

Importance of Granting ETC Status to Nextel Partners

PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BE SERVED:

- Nextel Partners is ideally suited to being an ETC because its primary business focus is serving mid-sized and tertiary markets, including underserved areas.
- Will enhance Nextel Partners' ability to provide more comprehensive service coverage to underserved areas.
- Will bring rural customers state-of-the-art digital mobile service at a reasonable price, increasing customer choice.
- Rural citizens should have same choices and access to advanced mobile services that urban citizens enjoy.
- Nextel Partners will provide all of the supported services throughout its designated areas.

Nextel Partners' Accomplishments

Cumulative Cell Sites

- 1999: 530
- 2000: 1,537
- 2001: 2,788
- 2002: 3,317
- 2003: 3,617 (est.)

Service Revenues

- 1999: \$28,100,000
- 2000: \$130,100,000
- 2001: \$363,600,000
- 2002: \$646,200,000